

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A regime or regimen for inhibiting NO-synthase, comprising administering  
to an individual in need of such treatment, a thus effective amount of ascorbyl  
5 2-hexadecanoate, or therapeutic/cosmetic composition comprised thereof,  
formulated into a physiologically acceptable medium therefor.
2. A regime or regimen for slowing or inhibiting cell differentiation and/or  
proliferation, comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment,  
10 a thus effective NO-synthase inhibiting amount of ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate, or  
therapeutic/cosmetic composition comprised thereof, formulated into a  
physiologically acceptable medium therefor.
3. A regime or regimen for slowing or inhibiting the growth of the epidermis  
15 and/or for treating hyperproliferation disorders, comprising administering to an  
individual in need of such treatment, a thus effective NO-synthase inhibiting  
amount of ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate, or therapeutic/cosmetic composition  
comprised thereof, formulated into a physiologically acceptable medium therefor.
- 20 4. A regime or regimen for inhibiting the degradation and/or destruction of  
cells, comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment, a thus  
effective NO-synthase inhibiting amount of ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate, or  
therapeutic/cosmetic composition comprised thereof, formulated into a  
physiologically acceptable medium therefor.
- 25 5. A regime or regimen for inhibiting a cellular apoptotic process, comprising  
administering to an individual in need of such treatment, a thus effective NO-  
synthase inhibiting amount of ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate, or therapeutic/cosmetic

composition comprised thereof, formulated into a physiologically acceptable medium therefor.

6. A regime or regimen for treating intrinsic and/or extrinsic aging,  
5 comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment, a thus effective NO-synthase inhibiting amount of ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate, or therapeutic/cosmetic composition comprised thereof, formulated into a physiologically acceptable medium therefor.
- 10 7. A regime or regimen for inhibiting or suppressing an immunological and/or inflammatory process, comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment, a thus effective NO-synthase inhibiting amount of ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate, or therapeutic/cosmetic composition comprised thereof, formulated into a physiologically acceptable medium therefor.
- 15 8. A regime or regimen for treating a contact hypersensitivity reaction and/or an allergic manifestation and/or an immune response, comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment, a thus effective NO-synthase inhibiting amount of ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate, or therapeutic/cosmetic composition  
20 comprised thereof, formulated into a physiologically acceptable medium therefor.
- 25 9. A regime or regimen for treating a skin reaction neurogenic in origin, comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment, a thus effective NO-synthase inhibiting amount of ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate, or therapeutic/cosmetic composition comprised thereof, formulated into a physiologically acceptable medium therefor.
10. A regime or regimen for treating "sensitive skin," comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment, a thus effective NO-

synthase inhibiting amount of ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate, or therapeutic/cosmetic composition comprised thereof, formulated into a physiologically acceptable medium therefor.

5      11.      A regime or regimen for increasing the barrier effect or moisturization of the skin, comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment, a thus effective NO-synthase inhibiting amount of ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate, or therapeutic/cosmetic composition comprised thereof, formulated into a physiologically acceptable medium therefor.

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12.      A regime or regimen for treating erytema, comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment, a thus effective NO-synthase inhibiting amount of ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate, or therapeutic/cosmetic composition comprised thereof, formulated into a physiologically acceptable medium therefor.

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13.      A regime or regimen for treating a localized or diffuse erythematous skin rash, comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment, a thus effective NO-synthase inhibiting amount of ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate, or therapeutic/cosmetic composition comprised thereof, formulated into a physiologically acceptable medium therefor.

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14.      A regime or regimen for treating rosacea, comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment, a thus effective NO-synthase inhibiting amount of ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate, or therapeutic/cosmetic composition comprised thereof, formulated into a physiologically acceptable medium therefor.

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15.      A regime or regimen for inhibiting melanogenesis induced by UV-A and/or UV-B radiation and/or for treating a hypermelanosis disorder, comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment, a thus effective NO-

synthase inhibiting amount of ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate, or therapeutic/cosmetic composition comprised thereof, formulated into a physiologically acceptable medium therefor.

5      16.      A regime or regimen for controlling sweating, comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment, a thus effective NO-synthase inhibiting amount of ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate, or therapeutic/cosmetic composition comprised thereof, formulated into a physiologically acceptable medium therefor.

10      17.      A regime or regimen for inhibiting hair loss, comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment, a thus effective NO-synthase inhibiting amount of ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate, or therapeutic/cosmetic composition comprised thereof, formulated into a physiologically acceptable medium therefor.

15      18.      The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 1, comprising administering a therapeutic/cosmetic composition which comprises from  $10^{-4}\%$  to 20% by weight of said ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate.

20      19.      The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 1, comprising administering a therapeutic/cosmetic composition which comprises from  $5 \times 10^{-3}\%$  to 10% by weight of said ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate.

25      20.      A cosmetic regime or regimen for treating a disorder associated with NO-synthesis, comprising topically applying onto the skin, the hair and/or the mucous membranes of an individual in need of such treatment, a thus effective amount of ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate formulated into a topically applicable, physiologically acceptable medium therefor.

21. A therapeutic/cosmetic composition suited for treating a disorder associated with NO-synthesis, comprising a thus effective amount of ascorbyl 2-hexadecanoate formulated into a physiologically acceptable medium therefor and constituting a cream, a gel, a serum, a lotion, a milk, a sunscreen, an emulsion, a mousse, an aerosol, a shampoo, a cleaning bar, a soap, a toothpaste, a syrup, capsules, tablets, granules, microcapsules, microparticles, or a vesicular dispersion.
22. The therapeutic/cosmetic composition as defined by Claim 21, further comprising at least one other NO-synthase inhibitor.
23. The therapeutic/cosmetic composition as defined by Claim 21, further comprising at least one other active agent selected from the group consisting of an agent for modifying cutaneous differentiation and/or proliferation and/or pigmentation; an antibacterial agent; an antiparasitic agent; and antifungal agent; a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agent; a keratolytic agent; a free-radical scavenger; an antiseborrheic agent; an antidandruff agent; an antiacne agent; an extract of plant or microbial origin; and a peptide or derivative thereof.